

Appl. No. 10/696,017  
Amdt. dated Dec. 20, 2004  
Reply to Office action of Aug. 26, 2004

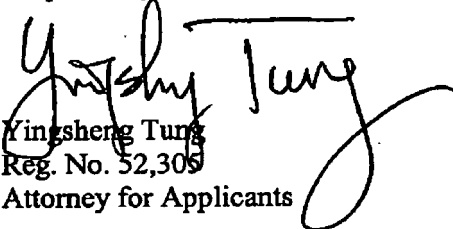
**Remarks**

Applicants thank Examiner Clark for her careful examination of this application and the clear explanation of the claim rejections, for allowing claims 1-9 and for conditionally allowing claims 11-14 and claims 16-20. In response, applicants cancel conditionally allowable claims 11 and 16, and incorporate all the limitations in those claims into claims 10 and 15, their respective base claims, replacing the corresponding limitations in the base claims.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 10 and 15, as amended, stand patentable over the reference. Claims 12-14 and 17-20 also stand patentable because the defects in their respective base claims 10 and 15 have been amended.

Applicants respectfully request further examination of this application and timely allowance of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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